

1. "From the **listless repose** of the place, and the peculiar character of its inhabitants, who are descendants from the original Dutch settlers, this **sequestered** glen has long been known by the name of SLEEPY HOLLOW, and its rustic lads are called the Sleepy Hollow Boys throughout all the neighboring country." (page 1)

"Some say that the place was bewitched by a High German doctor, during the early days of the settlement; others, that an old Indian chief, the prophet or wizard of his tribe, held his powwows there before the country was discovered by Master Hendrick Hudson. Certain it is, the place still continues under the sway of some witching power, that holds a spell over the minds of the good people, causing them to walk in a continual **reverie**. They are given to all kinds of marvelous beliefs; are subject to trances and visions, and frequently see strange sights, and hear music and voices in the air. The whole neighborhood abounds with local tales, haunted spots, and twilight superstitions; stars shoot and meteors glare oftener across the valley than in any other part of the country, and the nightmare, with her whole nine-fold, seems to make it the favorite scene of her **gambols**." (page 1)

Listless: lacking energy or enthusiasm – referring to a person or the way that person acts)

Gambols: playful leaping around

Reverie: daydream; a state of idle, pleasant contemplation

Repose: temporary rest from an activity, excitement, or exertion

Sequestered: isolated, especially from the pressures of everyday life and its disturbances

2. "The dominant spirit, however, that haunts this **enchanted** region, and seems to be commander-in-chief of all the powers of the air, is the **apparition** of a figure on horseback, without a head. It is said by some to be the ghost of a **Hessian** trooper, whose head had been carried away by a cannon-ball, in some nameless battle during the Revolutionary War, and who is **ever and anon** seen by the country folk hurrying along in the gloom of night, as if on the wings of the wind. His haunts are not confined to the valley, but extend at times to the adjacent roads, and especially to the **vicinity** of a church at no great distance. Indeed, certain of the most authentic historians of those parts, who have been careful in collecting and collating the floating facts concerning this **spectre**, **allege** that the body of the trooper having been buried in the churchyard, the ghost rides forth to the scene of battle in nightly quest of his head, and that the rushing speed with which he sometimes passes along the Hollow, like a midnight blast, is owing to his being belated, and in a hurry to get back to the churchyard before daybreak.

"Such is the general **purport** of this **legendary** superstition, which has furnished materials for many a wild story in that region of shadows; and the **spectre** is known at all the country firesides, by the name of the Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow.

"It is remarkable that the **visionary propensity** I have mentioned is not confined to the native inhabitants of the valley, but is unconsciously **imbibed** by every one who resides there for a time. However wide awake they may have been before they entered that sleepy region, they are sure, in a little time, to inhale the witching influence of the air, and begin to grow imaginative, to dream dreams, and see **apparitions**." (page 2)

Allege: to claim someone has done something knowing there is no way to prove it

Apparition: a ghost-like image of a person

Enchanted: to fill someone with great delight

Ever and anon: forever and ever

Hessian: someone from Hesse, in Germany

Imbibed: taken in and assimilated

Legendary: very well known; so well known stories filled with hyperbole are made up about this person or thing

Purport: meaning or significance

Propensity: a tendency to demonstrate particular behaviors

Spectre: ghost, dominant spirit, apparition

Vicinity: the area near or surrounding a particular place

Visionary: planning the future with imagination and wisdom

3. "I mention this peaceful spot with all possible **laud** for it is in such little retired Dutch valleys, found here and there **embosomed** in the great State of New York, that population, manners, and customs remain fixed, while the great **torrent** of migration and improvement, which is making such **incessant** changes in other parts of this restless country, sweeps by them unobserved." (page 3)

"In this by-place of nature there abode, in a remote period of American history, that is to say, some thirty years since, a worthy **wight** of the name of Ichabod Crane, who **sojourned**, or, as he expressed it, "**tarried**," in Sleepy Hollow, for the purpose of instructing the children of the vicinity." (page 3)

Embosomed: embraced

Incessant: continuing without pause or interruption

Laud: high praise

Torrent: strong or fast moving stream of water (torrent of migration – metaphor)

Sojourned: stayed for a time in a specific place

Tarried: lingered; stayed longer than intended, delayed leaving

Wight: (German origin: *creature*) an unfortunate soul; a spirit, ghost

4. "The **cognomen** of Crane was not inapplicable to his person. He was tall, but exceedingly lank, with narrow shoulders, long arms and legs, hands that dangled a mile out of his sleeves, feet that might have served for shovels, and his whole frame most loosely hung together. His head was small, and flat at top, with huge ears, large green glassy eyes, and a long **snipe** nose, so that it looked like a weather-cock perched upon his spindle neck to tell which way the wind blew. To see him striding along the profile of a hill on a windy day, with his clothes bagging and fluttering about him, one might have mistaken him for the genius of famine descending upon the earth, or some scarecrow eloped from a cornfield." (page 3)

Cognomen: nickname or name that describes somebody

Snipe: a wading bird with a long straight beak

Metaphor - "hands that dangled a mile out of his sleeves"

Metaphor - "feet that might have served for shovels"

Metaphor: "long snipe nose"

Metaphor: "might have mistaken him for the genius of famine descending upon the earth"

Metaphor: "might have mistaken him ... for some scarecrow eloped from a cornfield"

5. "His schoolhouse was a low building of one large room, rudely constructed of logs; the windows partly glazed, and partly patched with leaves of old copybooks. It [schoolhouse] was most **ingeniously** secured at vacant hours, by a **withe** twisted in the handle of the door, and stakes set against the window shutters; so that though a thief might get in with perfect ease, he would find some embarrassment in getting out, --an idea most probably borrowed by the architect, Yost Van Houten, from the mystery of an eel-pot. The schoolhouse stood in a rather lonely but pleasant situation, just at the foot of a woody hill, with a brook running close by, and a formidable birch-tree growing at one end of it. **From hence** the low murmur of his pupils' voices, **conning** over their lessons, might be heard in a drowsy summer's day, like the hum of a beehive; interrupted now and then by the authoritative voice of the master, in the tone of menace or command, or, **peradventure**, by the **appalling** sound of the birch, as he urged some tardy loiterer along the flowery path of knowledge." (page 4)

Appalling: horrified by "the sound of the birch"

Conning: studying or examining something with great care and attention

From hence: from this place

Ingeniously: cleverly, originally, inventively

Peradventure: perhaps

Withe: a flexible twig or stem used to bind something

6. "I would not have it imagined, however, that he was one of those cruel **potentates** of the school who joy in the smart of their subjects; on the contrary, he administered justice with discrimination rather than severity; taking the burden off the backs of the weak, and laying it on those of the strong. Your mere **puny stripling**, that winced at the least flourish of the rod, was passed by with **indulgence**; but the **claims of justice** were satisfied by inflicting a double portion on some little tough wrong headed, broad-skirted Dutch urchin, who sulked and swelled and grew dogged and sullen beneath the birch. All this he called "doing his duty by their parents;" and he never inflicted a **chastisement** without following it by the **assurance**, so **consolatory** to the smarting **urchin**, that "he would remember it and thank him for it the longest day he had to live." (page 4)

Assurance: a promise

Chastisement: rebuke or reprimand severely

Consolatory: comforting remark or action

Indulgence: allowing a certain pleasure in skipping this child

Potentate: somebody with great power or authority

Puny: small and weak

Stripling: a boy in his early teenage years, who is not fully-grown

Urchin: mischievous young child (archaic definition – goblin)

Metaphor when compared to disciplinary actions: "claims of justice" – discipline

7. "The schoolmaster is generally a man of some importance in the female circle of a rural neighborhood; being considered a kind of idle, gentlemanlike personage, of vastly superior taste and accomplishments to the rough country **swains**, and, indeed, inferior in learning only to the parson. His appearance, therefore, is apt to occasion some little stir at the tea-table of a farmhouse, and the addition of a **supernumerary** dish of cakes or sweetmeats, or, **peradventure**, the parade of a silver teapot. Our man of letters, therefore, was peculiarly happy in the smiles of all the country **damsels**. How he would figure among them in the churchyard, between services on Sundays; gathering grapes for them from the wild vines that overran the surrounding trees; reciting for their amusement all the **epitaphs** on the tombstones; or **sauntering**, with a whole **bevy** of them, along the banks of the **adjacent** mill-pond; while the more **bashful** country **bumpkins** hung **sheepishly** back, envying his superior elegance and address." (page 6)

Adjacent: next to or adjoining something else

Bashful: shy; reluctant to draw attention to oneself

Bevy: group of people

Bumpkins: an unsophisticated or socially awkward person from the country

Damsels: young, unmarried women

Epitaphs: a memory engraved on a tombstone

Peradventure: perhaps

Sauntering: walk in a slow relaxed manner without hurry or effort

Sheepishly: mildly embarrassed and lacking confidence

Supernumerary: extra; above the normal or required amount

Swains: country youth, usually a young boy wanting to go out with a young girl; a suitor

8. "From his half-**itinerant** life, also, he was a kind of traveling **gazette**, carrying the whole **budget** of local gossip from house to house, so that his appearance was always greeted with satisfaction. He was, moreover, **esteemed** by the women as a man of great **erudition**, for he had read several books quite through, and was a perfect master of Cotton Mather's "History of New England Witchcraft," in which, by the way, he most firmly and **potently** believed." (page 6)

Budget: the archaic definition is a backpack that is used to carry money but in this case it is used to carry gossip

Erudition: knowledge acquired through study and reading

Esteemed: respected and admired

Gazette: like a newspaper, but listing government announcements instead of news

Itinerant: traveling from place to place

Potently: having great power, influence, or effect

9. "No tale was too gross or monstrous for his **capacious** swallow. It was often his delight, after his school was dismissed in the afternoon, to stretch himself on the rich bed of clover bordering the little brook that whimpered by his school-house, and there **con** over old Mather's **direful** tales, until the gathering dusk of evening made the printed page a mere mist before his eyes. Then, as he **wended** his way by swamp and stream and awful woodland, to the farmhouse where he happened to be **quartered**, every sound of nature, at that witching hour, fluttered his excited imagination, --the moan of the whip-poor-will from the hillside, the **boding** cry of the tree toad, that **harbinger** of storm, the dreary hooting of the screech owl, to the sudden rustling in the **thicket** of birds frightened from their roost. The fireflies, too, which sparkled most vividly in the darkest places, now and then startled him, as one of uncommon brightness would stream across his path; and if, by chance, a huge blockhead of a beetle came winging his **blundering** flight against him, the poor **varlet** was ready to give up the ghost, with the idea that he was struck with a witch's token. His only resource on such occasions, either to drown thought or drive away evil spirits, was to sing psalm tunes and the good people of Sleepy Hollow, as they sat by their doors of an evening, were often filled with awe at hearing his nasal melody, "in linked sweetness long drawn out," floating from the distant hill, or along the dusky road." (page 7)

Blundering: moving clumsily as if unable to see
Boding: omen predicting of a particular outcome
Capacious: big enough to contain a large quantity
Con: to study or examine something with great care and attention
Direful: extremely bad
Harbinger: something that foreshadows a future event
Quartered: lived, rented space
Thicket: a dense group of trees
Varlet: a man or boy acting as a servant
Wended: traveled along a route

10. "All these, however, were mere terrors of the night, phantoms of the mind that walk in darkness; and though he had seen many **spectres** in his time, and been more than once beset by Satan in **divers** shapes, in his lonely **perambulations**, yet daylight put an end to all these evils; and he would have passed a pleasant life of it, in despite of the Devil and all his works, if his path had not been crossed by a being that causes more **perplexity** to mortal man than ghosts, goblins, and the whole race of witches put together, and that was--a woman." (page 9)

Divers: several different [shapes]
Perplexity: complicated, confusing, not able to understand
Perambulations: wanderings about on foot
Spectre: ghost, dominant spirit, apparition

11. The **pedagogue's** mouth watered as he looked upon this **sumptuous** promise of **luxurious** winter fare. In his devouring mind's eye, he pictured to himself every roasting-pig running about with a pudding in his belly, and an apple in his mouth; the pigeons were snugly put to bed in a comfortable pie, and tucked in with a coverlet of crust; the geese were swimming in their own gravy; and the ducks pairing cosy-ly in dishes, like snug married couples, with a decent **competency** of onion sauce. In the porkers he saw carved out the future sleek side of bacon, and juicy **relishing** ham; not a turkey but he beheld daintily **trussed up**, with its gizzard under its wing, and, **peradventure**, a necklace of savory sausages; and even bright **chanticleer** himself lay sprawling on his back, in a side dish, with uplifted claws, as if craving that quarter which his **chivalrous** spirit **disdained** to ask while living. (page 11)

Chanticleer: rooster
Chivalrous: courteous and gallant behavior from a man towards a woman
Competency: serving or amount [of onion sauce]
Disdain: to refuse or reject something because of prideful feelings
Pedagogue: very strict teacher
Luxurious: extremely comfortable, enjoyable, elegant
Peradventure: perhaps
Relishing: great enjoyment
Sumptuous: extravagant; magnificent
Trussed up: to tie up the legs and wings of a chicken or turkey before baking

12. "Among these, the most formidable was a burly, roaring, **roistering blade**, of the name of Abraham, or, according to the Dutch abbreviation, Brom Van Brunt, the hero of the country round which rang with his **feats** of strength and hardihood. He was broad-shouldered and double-jointed, with short curly black hair, and a bluff but not unpleasant **countenance**, having a mingled air of fun and arrogance. From his Herculean frame and great powers of limb he had received the nickname of BROM BONES, by which he was universally known. He was famed for great knowledge and skill in horsemanship, being as dexterous on horseback as a Tartar. He was foremost at all races and cock fights; and, with the **ascendancy** which bodily strength always acquires in rustic life, was the umpire in all disputes, setting his hat on one side, and giving his decisions with an air and tone that admitted of no **gainsay** or appeal. He was always ready for either a fight or a frolic; but had more mischief than ill-will in his **composition**; and with all his overbearing roughness, there was a strong dash of **waggish** good humor at bottom. He had three or four **boon companions**, who regarded him as their model, and at the head of whom he scoured the country, attending every scene of feud or merriment for miles round. In cold weather he was distinguished by a fur cap, surmounted with a flaunting fox's tail; and when the folks at a country gathering descried this well-known crest at a distance, whisking about among a squad of hard riders, they always stood by for a **squall**. Sometimes his crew would be heard dashing along past the farmhouses at midnight, with whoop and halloo, like a troop of Don Cossacks; and the old dames, startled out of their sleep, would listen for a moment till the hurry-scurry had clattered by, and then exclaim, "Ay, there goes Brom Bones and his gang!" The neighbors looked upon him with a mixture of awe, admiration, and good-will; and, when any madcap prank or rustic brawl occurred in the vicinity, always shook their heads, and warranted Brom Bones was at the bottom of it.

"This **rantipole** hero had for some time singled out the blooming Katrina for the object of his uncouth gallantries, and though his amorous sayings were something like the gentle caresses and endearments of a bear, yet it was whispered that she did not altogether discourage his hopes. Certain it is, his advances were signals for rival candidates to retire, who felt no inclination to cross a lion in his amours; insomuch, that when his horse was seen tied to Van Tassel's paling, on a Sunday night, a sure sign that his master was courting, or, as it is termed, "sparking," within, all other suitors passed by in despair, and carried the war into other quarters." (page 13)

Ascendancy: a position of dominant power or influence

Boon companions: BFF

Composition: personal character

Countenance: facial expression

Blade: informal and archaic – a dashing and energetic young man

Feats: an achievement that requires great courage, skill, and strength

Facetious: treating serious issues with deliberate, somewhat inappropriate humor

Gainsay: denial or contradiction

Rantipole: wild; boisterous

Roistering: carousing

Squall: a loud cry

Waggish: humorous in a playful, mischievous, or facetious manner

13. "Brom, who had a degree of rough **chivalry** in his nature, would fain have carried matters to open warfare and have settled their **pretensions** to the lady, according to the mode of those most concise and simple reasoners, the knights-errant of yore, -- by single combat; but Ichabod was too conscious of the superior might of his **adversary** to **enter the lists** against him; he had overheard a boast of Bones, that he would "double the schoolmaster up, and lay him on a shelf of his own schoolhouse;" and he was too **wary** to give him an opportunity. There was something extremely provoking, in this **obstinately pacific** system; it left Brom no alternative but to draw upon the funds of rustic **waggery** in his disposition, and to play off **boorish** practical jokes upon his rival." (page 15)

Adversary: an opponent in a contest, conflict, or dispute

Boorish: rude person without any manners

Chivalry: medieval knightly system defining moral and social codes of life

Enter the lists: to begin to take part in a fight

Obstinately: stubbornly refusing to change one's opinion or course of action

Pacific: peaceful, not antagonistic

Pretensions: the use of affection to impress another

Wary: showing caution about possible dangers or problems

Waggery: playful, mischievous, or facetious personality

14. On a fine autumnal afternoon, Ichabod, in **pensive** mood, sat enthroned on the lofty stool from whence he usually watched all the concerns of his little **literary realm**. In his hand he swayed a **ferule**, that **sceptre** of **despotic** power; the birch of justice reposed on three nails behind the throne, a constant terror to evil doers, while on the desk before him might be seen **sundry contraband** articles and prohibited weapons, **detected** upon the persons of idle urchins, such as half-munched apples, popguns, whirligigs, fly-cages, and whole legions of **rampant** little paper game-cocks. Apparently there had been some appalling act of justice recently **inflicted**, for his scholars were all busily intent upon their books, or slyly whispering behind them with one eye kept upon the master; and a kind of buzzing stillness reigned throughout the schoolroom. (page 16)

“All was now bustle and hubbub in the late quiet schoolroom. The scholars were hurried through their lessons without stopping at trifles; those who were nimble skipped over half with impunity, and those who were tardy had a smart application now and then in the rear, to quicken their speed or help them over a tall word. Books were flung aside without being put away on the shelves, inkstands were overturned, benches thrown down, and the whole school was turned loose an hour before the usual time, bursting forth like a **legion** of young **imps**, yelping and racketing about the green in joy at their early **emancipation**.” (page 16)

Contraband: illegal possessions imported or exported illegally

Despotic: absolute [power]

Detected: discovered or identified

Emancipation: set free from legal, social, or political restrictions

Ferule: an instrument of punishment used to strike children, such as a cane or rod

Imps: mischievous children

Inflicted: caused someone to experience unpleasant or painful suffering

Legion: a unit of 3,000 to 6,000 men in the ancient Roman army (hyperbole used to describe the students)

Literary realm: class; school house full of students

Pensive: thinking deep thoughts; reflecting about something

Rampant: flourishing or spreading unchecked

Scepter: an ornamental staff carried by rulers on ceremonial occasions as a symbol of sovereignty

Sundry: various kinds; several kinds

15. “They [Ichabod and the Headless Horseman] had now reached the road which turns off to Sleepy Hollow; but Gunpowder, who seemed **possessed** with a demon, instead of keeping up it, made an opposite turn, and **plunged** headlong down hill to the left. This road leads through a sandy **hollow** shaded by trees for about a quarter of a mile, where it crosses the bridge famous in goblin story; and just beyond **swells** the green knoll on which stands the whitewashed church.

“... An opening, in the trees now cheered him with the hopes that the church bridge was at hand. The wavering reflection of a silver star in the bosom of the brook told him that he was not mistaken. He saw the walls of the church dimly glaring under the trees beyond. He recollected the place where Brom Bones' ghostly competitor had disappeared. “If I can but reach that bridge,” thought Ichabod, “I am safe.” Just then he heard the black steed panting and blowing close behind him; he even **fancied** that he felt his hot breath. Another **convulsive** kick in the ribs, and old Gunpowder sprang upon the bridge; he thundered over the **resounding** planks; he gained the opposite side; and now Ichabod cast a look behind to see if his **pursuer** should vanish, according to rule, in a flash of fire and brimstone. Just then he saw the goblin rising in his stirrups, and in the very act of hurling his head at him. Ichabod **endeavored** to dodge the horrible missile, but too late. It encountered his cranium with a tremendous crash, --he was tumbled headlong into the dust, and Gunpowder, the black steed, and the goblin rider, passed by like a whirlwind.” (page 28)

Convulsive: sudden, violent, irregular movement

Endeavored: tried hard to do or achieve something

Fancied: imagine, think

Hollow: a valley or gully

Plunged: dive or fall suddenly and uncontrollably

Possessed: ghostly influence; having complete power over someone; to dominate or have an overpowering influence

Pursuer: someone who is following someone else

Resounding: loud enough to reverberate (shake)

Swells: rise in the distance